GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:558
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
SUICIDE BY FARMERS
Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of suicides committed by the farmers in various States including the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last six months, State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of the loans provided by the Rural Cooperative Banks to the families of the farmers who committed suicides during the last two years, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 558 DUE FOR REPLY ON 5TH MAY, 2008.

(a) to (d): A statement indicating number of suicides by farmers during the last two years in various states including Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, as reported by the respective State Governments is annexed. The State Governments have reported crop failure, drought, indebtedness, social and economic insecurity broadly, as causes for suicide by farmers.

The remedial measures undertaken by the Government of India in this regard include approval of a Rehabilitation Package of Rs.16978.69 crore for 31 districts reporting comparatively higher number of farmers' suicides in four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The implementation of package will be over a period of 3 years. The rehabilitation package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries etc. As on 31.01.2008, an amount of about Rs.10070.81 crore has been released under the package. In addition, a scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers has been announced by the Government in the Union Budget for 2008-09.

The information regarding loans provided by the Rural Cooperative Banks to the families of the farmers who committed suicide during the last two years, is not readily available. However, the flow of agricultural credit for the last two years, in the 31 identified districts covered under Rehabilitation Package in four states, is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the State	Target 2006-07	Disbursement as on 31st March, 2007	Target 2007-08	Latest Disbursement position
Andhra Pradesh	13,817.78	12,627.23	15032.50	10703.32
Karnataka	3076.20	2962.99	3749.41	2004.65$
Kerala	1945.07	2324.30	2395.45	1143.76$
Maharashtra	2583.39	2012.90	2225.35	1582.44
Total	21,422.44	19,927.42	23402.71	15434.17

Position as on 31.12.2007

Position as on 31.01.2008

$ Position as on 30.09.2007